

**FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
RECREATION COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

Front Conference Room 711 Broad Street, Florence, NJ 08518
Meeting Time and Date: 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 7, 2022

**MINUTES OF MEETING
Reorganization Meeting
January 10, 2022**

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Tony Pastore called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Sunshine Law statement was read and ordered that the minutes reflect that adequate notice was provided to the public at least 48-hours in advance of the meeting by prominently posting a notice on the public bulletin board of the municipal building and by publication in the Burlington County Times (Rec Committee Meetings listed January 2021)

ROLL CALL	PRESENT	ABSENT	REMARKS
Frank Baldorossi	X		
Kim Dembowski	X		
Dennise Yurcho		X	
TJ Lovenduski	X		
Thomas Supey	X		
Anthony Pastore	X		
Mary Pieretti	X		
Caitlin Motta	X		
Donna Sadler	X		
Nancy Hoch		X	
Don Nemeth	X		
Tom Boracci	X		
Martin Eckert Jr.	X		

Quorum Present (7 Voting Members) Yes X No

1a. Election of Officers

Chairman – Unanimous vote to re-elect Tony Pastore
Vice Chairman – Unanimous vote to re-elect TJ Lovenduski
Secretary – Unanimous vote to re-elect Caitlin Motta

1b. Program Liaisons

Rec Baseball – TJ Lovenduski
Rec Softball – Tony Pastore
Rec Soccer – Tom Boracci
Rec Field Hockey – Mary Pieretti
Rec Football & Cheer – Don Nemeth
Rec Basketball – Marty Eckert
Wellness & Activities – Caitlin Motta, Tony Pastore, Kim Dembowski, Dennise
Dennise Yurcho

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

The minutes associated with the December 6, 2021 meeting were not provided at time of meeting.

3. COORDINATORS REPORT

New Township Website: Marty shared with the committee that the new township website has now been launched. Additional updates will be made and some pages are not yet complete but are under construction. Marty invited everyone to check out the new site and provide some feedback or ideas if there are some areas to improve.

DCA Recreation Improvement Grant: Shortly after the New Year the township was alerted that the recreation improvement grant that Marty had applied for was awarded \$70,000.00 for the purposes of renovating the former public works garage to be repurposed as an all-purpose facility. Marty shared with the committee that the building is nearly emptied and he will begin inquiring with contractors and receive quotes for various improvements. The public works department will also take part in the remediation efforts. The goal of the building will to host a variety of different activities that will be managed and scheduled by the recreation department. There is not yet an anticipated date of completion but as the architect is able to provide feedback and contractor pricing is received work will commence.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None received at time of meeting.

5. FACILITIES

Municipal Facilities & Buildings:

Former Public Works Garage. Marty shared that the committee will provide input on events and activities that may be a good fit for the facility. The committee will be tasked with supporting efforts of helping to develop activities that are non-sports related as well as active recreation activity. Adult programs are something to continue to grow including expanding the exercise programs, adult (and youth) volleyball, craft or game nights, etc.

Veterans Field Storage: Marty worked with the locksmith and has updated all of the locks at the Veterans field restroom/storage building. They are no longer the keys that are unable to be copied, however once Marty issues keys to leagues that use this building no other copies are to be made without approval.

Scout House – Potts Mill Road: Tom Supey provided that activity continues to take place at the Scout House. Ted Lovenduski will be further coordinating with both Boy Scout & Girl Scout organizations to encourage scheduling for the building and property in the New Year. We will also be working with the water & sewer department to prep water access to the kitchen area of the building.

Board of Education Facilities: None

6. OLD BUSINESS

Health & Wellness Programs: Tony shared that the gentle fitness class continues to go very well. Attendance remains steady despite the colder weather. As we move thru winter there is interest to expand our offerings. Marty explained that the 2022 budget prep has begun and we will know what our budget will be for classes soon. The committee will assist in considering other classes to offer when we are ready.

7. NEW BUSINESS

January 2022 Comedy Night: Tony shared that comedy show tickets continue to come in. He has a group of volunteers for set up and clean up but invites committee members to contact him for tickets if interested. If a table of tickets is purchased that a discount of one ticket rate if offered. Marty has shared the information on social media about the show and will share again now that we are only a few weeks out.

Proposed Playground Improvements: Marty was part of conversations where there was interest in developing a playground that offers equipment and layout that are accessible to handicapped. Additionally, providing a completely fenced concept offers additional support, so that would be part of the planning as well. Marty in meeting with Amazon was asked about potential community improvements that the township is considering and when the topic of a playground came up they were very interested in exploring further. Marty will be meeting with them again to provide more information.

Proposed Park & Pathway Feedback from Website Posting: Marty followed up with the committee regarding the website posting asking for community feedback on potential improvements along W 5th Street towards W Front Street and the township owned parcels. Many of the concepts offered pathways, access to a gazebo and/or benches for sitting. There would be improvements to the existing playground along W Front Street and the concept of a splash pad was a favorable addition of interest.

The committee was supportive of the improvements and extending the walking/bicycle path helps to safely bridge the neighborhoods and creates a nice flow for residents to enjoy. The committee shared that a splash pad may be something to be cautionary of due to cost, maintenance and limited amount of time that it will be used. There was also a question of securing the area, would it be monitored during the day and how will it be policed for safety, maximum occupancy, proper use, etc.

8. REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Nothing reported.

Members of Public:

No members of public present.

9. ADJOURNMENT. Request for motion to adjourn was made, (Pastore/Motta). The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.